AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A glutamine-auxotropic human cell transfected with

(a) an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a sialylated protein or an exogenous DNA sequence capable of altering the expression of an endogenous gene encoding a sialylated protein, and which exogenous DNA sequence further comprises a selectable marker selected from the group consisting of DHFR, adenosine deaminase, asparagine synthetase, aspartate transcarbamylase, metallotionein-1, omithine decarboxylase, P-glycoprotein, ribonucleotide reductase, thymidine kinase and xanthine-guanine phosporibosyl transferase, and

(b) an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a glutamine synthetase as a selectable marker,

wherein these exogenous DNA sequences are located on more than one DNA construct, wherein said DNA construct is a vector, and wherein said transfected cell is capable of producing said protein and is capable of growing in a glutamine-free and serum-free medium.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 1, wherein the glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is an immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell.

4. (Original) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 3, wherein the immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is a human fibrosarcoma cell.

5. (Original) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 4, wherein the human fibrosarcoma cell is a HT1080 cell line.

6. (Previously Presented) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 1, wherein the transfected cell is anchorage-independent and capable of growing in suspension in serum-free and glutamine-free medium.

7. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a sialylated protein comprising the steps of

a) culturing a glutamine-auxotrophic human cell according to claim 1 in a serum-free culture medium under conditions suitable for expression of said protein and

b) recovering said protein.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 7 wherein the culture medium is serum-free and/or glutamine free.

11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 7 wherein the culture medium is both serum free and glutamine free.

Claim 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim [[13]]11 wherein sialylation is defined by N-glycan charge.

15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 14 wherein said sialylated protein comprises tri, tetra- or pentasialo glycoforms of said N-glycan.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The cell of claim [[16]]1 wherein sialylation is defined by N-glycan charge.

18. (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 17 wherein said sialylated protein comprises tri, tetra- or pentasialo glycoforms of said N-glycan.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 7, wherein the glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is an immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 19, wherein the immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is a human fibrosarcoma cell.

21. (Currently Amended) The cell of claim [[16]]1 wherein the sialylated protein is Erythropoietin.

22. (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 21 wherein the Erythropoietin is human Erythropoietin.

23. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim [[13]]11 wherein the sialylated protein is Erythropoietin.

24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 23 wherein the Erythropoietin is human Erythropoietin.

Claims 25-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The process of claim [[26]]20, wherein the human fibrosarcoma cell is a HT1080 cell line.

28. (new) A method to produce the glutamine-auxotropic human cell of claim 1 or 17 comprising the steps of

(a) firstly transfecting said human cell with an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a protein or

an exogenous DNA sequence capable of altering the expression of an endogenous gene encoding a protein, and which exogenous DNA sequence further comprises a selectable marker selected from the group consisting of DHFR, adenosine deaminase, asparagine synthetase, aspartate transcarbamylase, metallothionein-1, ormithine decarboxylase, P-glycoprotein, ribonucleotide reductase, thymidin kinase and xanthin-guanine phosphoribosyl

and

(b) secondly, transfecting the cell obtained in step (a) with an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a glutamine synthetase, and

(c) culturing the cell obtained in step (b) in glutamine-free medium.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said cell is further adapted to the growth in serum free medium.

30. (new) A method to produce the glutamine-auxotropic human cell claim 1 or 17 comprising the steps of

(a) transfecting a cell which is stably transfected with an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a protein or an exogenous DNA sequence capable of altering the expression of an endogenous gene encoding a protein, and which exogenous DNA sequence further comprises a selectable marker selected from the group consisting of DHFR, adenosine deaminase, asparagine synthetase, aspartate transcarbamylase, metallothionein-1, ormithine decarboxylase, P-glycoprotein, ribonucleotide reductase, thymidin kinase and xanthin-guanine phosphoribosyl, with a further

exogenous DNA sequence encoding a glutamine synthetase,

(b) culturing the cell obtained in step (a) in glutamine-free medium.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein said cell is further adapted to the growth in serum free medium.